



World Christian Fellowship

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Origins of People

When God created, He placed Adam and Eve in a garden called the garden of Eden. That garden was located in the Tigris-Euphrates valley, which is the Mesopotamian valley, the heart of the Middle East.

That is the original paradise of God, the very place where God walked and talked with Adam in the cool of the day. This is the place God put the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

It was here that the Tower of Babel was built, which invented world religions.

It was here that later on the city of Babylon was built, which is today in modern Iraq.

It was here that Noah lived, and preached.

It's very historic land.

Genesis 10 and 11 we have what we call the table of nations. Genesis 10 you see all kinds of names, they are names of people and families and nations, tribes.

Genesis 11:10, This is the genealogy of Shem: Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood.

Genealogies of individuals who fathered families and people groups. This is early society as it developed from Noah.

God drowned the entire world, as recorded in chapters 6 to 9 of Genesis, and only saved eight people.

Noah, his wife, his three sons and their three wives. Eight people came off the ark, repopulated the world. So, you have in chapter 10 the generations that flowed from Noah through his three sons:

- ✓ Shem,
- ✓ Ham, and
- ✓ Japheth.

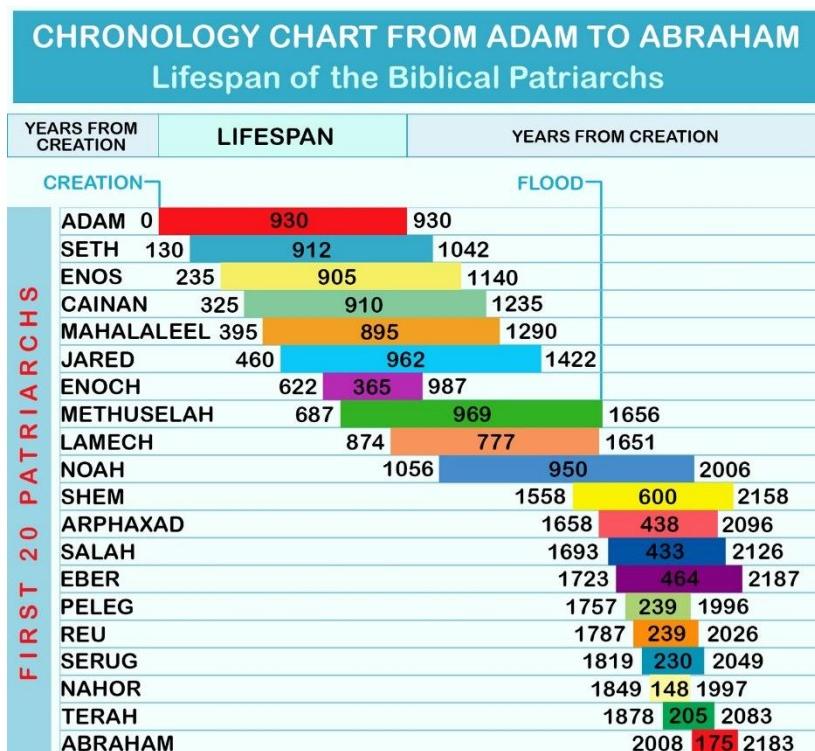
Japheth, the oldest son, fathered what are now known as the Indo-European people.

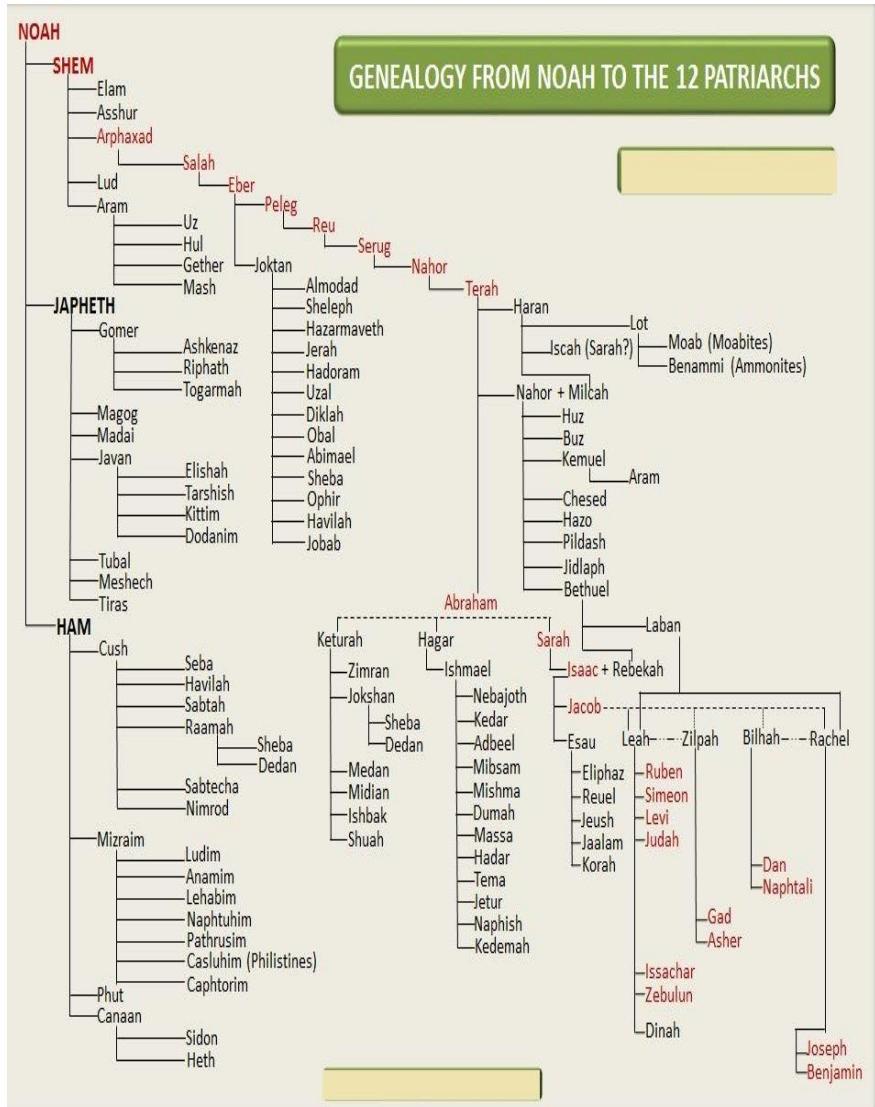
From Japheth came those who live in Europe and all the way across to India, and even across Russia and across the Bering Sea, and into North America and South America, the native peoples.

Ham fathered families in Africa and the Far East, the Asian world, as well as some regions of the Middle East.

Shem, a well-known son of Noah, from whom came the Jewish people and Arabic people of the Mesopotamian valley.

Shem's people lived north, south, east of the land of Israel. I don't want to over-simplify, because Israel also came from Shem, and so did these other Arabic peoples.





But when Abraham came along, God gave it all to him and his family. God gave to Abraham all the land from the

Mediterranean coast through the depths of the Babylonian valley, gave it all to them, the entire Mesopotamian region.

Abraham was the son of a man named Terah. Terah was a moon god worshiper, and the worship of the moon god was the most popular form of idolatry apparently in the day of Abraham.

There were two great centers of the worship of the moon god:

1. Ur, down in the Persian Gulf in what is now Kuwait.
2. Heron, way up in the north in the area of Iraq.

Abraham was born into a family of worshipers of the moon god in the place called Ur.

So, this is a historical area, the land of the Middle East, the land of the Mesopotamian valley, the land of the twenty-one Arab states, is the land of the beginnings of human history.

Abraham fathered the Jewish people.

Genesis 12:1-3, “*Go forth from your country, from your relatives, from your father’s house, to the land that I’ll show you. I’ll make you a great nation. I’ll bless you, make your name great; so shall you be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I’ll curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*”

God said, Abraham was chosen by Me. Out of Abraham is going to come My nation, and that nation is going to bring about blessing on those who bless them and cursing on those who curse them." God gave to Abraham the promise that He would give him the land.

So, the idolatrous people, of that land were set on a collision course with Israel. The reason Israel has never really been able to possess the land they were given is because Israel has not been faithful to God.

Someday they will be.

Israelites will come to salvation one day, the Messiah Himself will come and give them the land.

But in the meantime, they continue to lay claim to that land which were given to them by God. Because they lay claim to that land, the Egyptians, the Syrians, the Assyrians, and everybody else is their avowed enemy.

Abraham did such a terrible thing.

God said, "*I'm going to give you a son. Trust Me, I'm going to give you a son.*"

He was a hundred, Sarah was ninety, they were barren.

Abraham said, “*How can I have a whole nation? How can I be the father of people? How can I be the father of a nation if I don’t even have a son, if I’m barren?*”

Abraham’s wife had a great idea. She said, “I can’t bear you a son, so here’s my servant named Hagar. You go in and have relationships with her, and she will produce a son.”

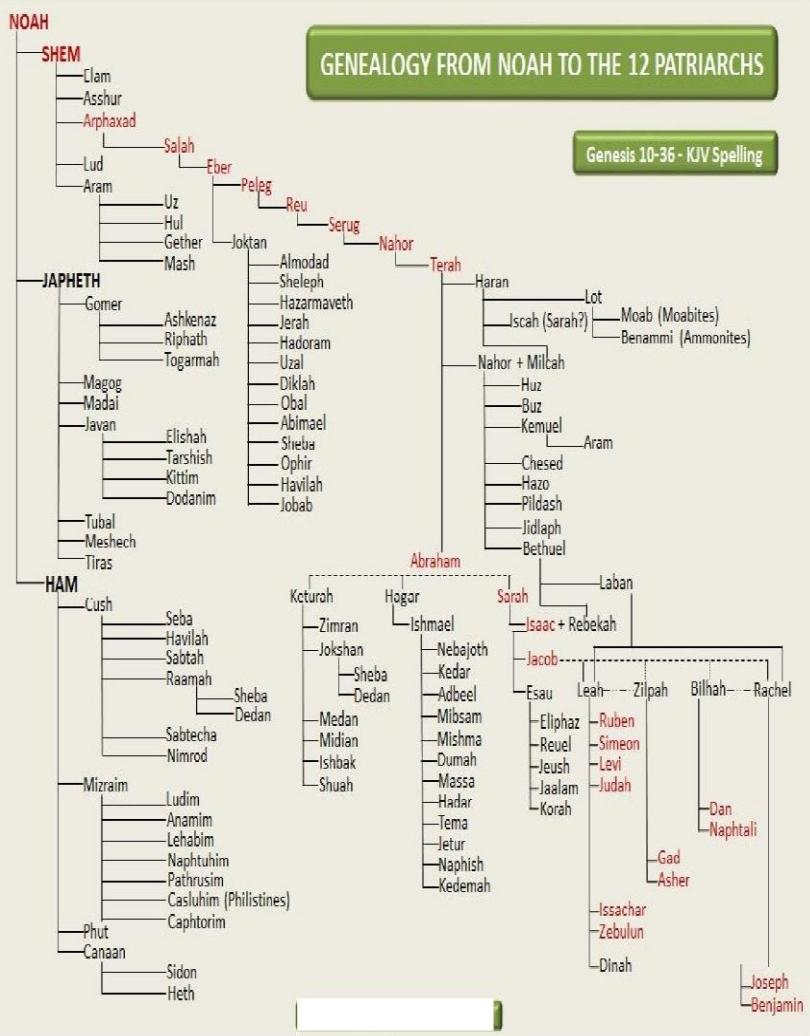
An act of distrust toward God, he did that, and she became pregnant, and she brought forth a son whose name is Ishmael – an illegitimate son, not the son of God’s promise or covenant.

Genesis 17:21, *But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.”*

Through Isaac came the Jewish people but through Ishmael came more enemies.

Out of Ishmael came the Hagarites, mentioned in 1 Chronicles chapter 5.

To make matters worse, there was a rejected son of Isaac by the name of Esau. Out of Esau came more people who were not in the covenant producing more enemies.



The Middle East is just filled with the descendants of all of these people who are in conflict with Israel's stated right to the Abrahamic promise.

God wanted to remove those people, those wicked, idolatrous, adulterous people. He wanted to do it when He led Israel out of Egypt. They had been four hundred years in the captivity in Egypt.

God raised up Moses to lead them out into the wilderness. They were faithless. The whole generation had to die in the wilderness because they committed idolatry.

When there finally was a new generation raised up and God took them into the Promised Land, into the land of Canaan, He said, "It's all going to be yours, I want to give it all to you. Now go in there and destroy those inhabitants, those idolaters."

God had already demonstrated in history that He would destroy the ungodly. He drowned the whole world in the flood. But now not by water it was Israel to be His weapon.

They saw victory over Egypt, the whole Egyptian army drowned, and the great plagues that came on Egypt caused a massive amount of death. They conquered the tribes on the other side

of the Jordan, according to Deuteronomy chapter 3, and they stood ready to go into the land of Canaan and conquer.

Instead, they went into the land of Canaan and were defeated. Remember that?

At a place called Ai, they were defeated, because there was sin in the camp. And they never did do what God told them to do. They never became that sword of Jehovah, as it were. And so, there they sit in the middle of the conflict, endlessly threatened by the neighbors around them.

There should be a warning, however. God's covenant with Israel has not been broken. And it is still true that the nation that blesses Israel is blessed, and a nation that curses Israel is cursed. Any nation that threatens the existence of Israel will come under God's judgment; that is repeated in the Scripture.

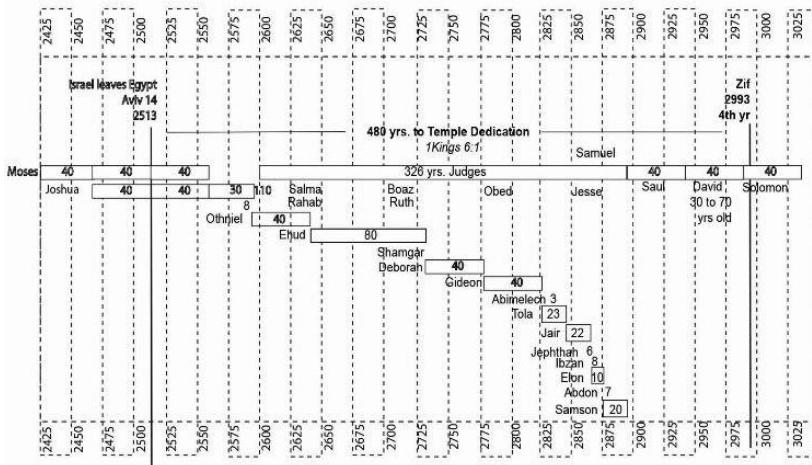
Just read Psalm 121, then read Psalm 125, then read Psalm 129, then read Isaiah 43, et cetera.

- 2250 (2500 B.C.) - The three main cities of Assyria (Ashur, Arbel and Nineveh) are all thriving
- 2379 (2371 B.C.) - Sargon of Akked, rises to power. Establishes the first Assyrian kingdom in Mesopotamia
- 3443 (1307 B.C.) - Adad- Narari establishes the first Assyrian empire
- 3635 (1115 B.C.) - Tiglath- Pileseser established the second Assyrian empire. Armeanean invasion begins
- 3816 (934 B.C.) - Ashur- Dan II creates the Neo-Assyrian empire. Unifies the Middle East from Egypt to the Caspian Sea (between

Timeline of Assyrian Empire

- **1363 B.C. – Ashur-ubalit revolts against Mitanni rule and founds the Assyrian Empire.**
- **1273 B.C. – Shalmaneser of Assyria conquers the Mitanni.**
- **1240 B.C. – Assyrians attack Babylon.**
- **774 B.C. – Assyrian incursions of Phoenicia begin.**
- **752 B.C. – Aramaic is made an official language of the empire alongside Akkadiam.**

Moses to Solomon



Joseph died and buried 1806 B.C

Joseph was 110 years when he died.

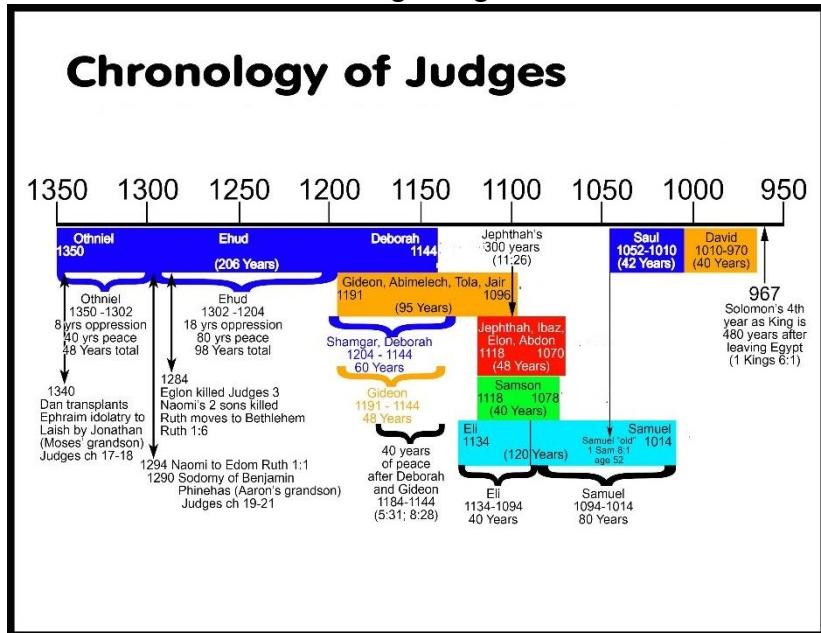
Moses Flees to Midian 1486 B.C.

Exodus Begins 1446 B.C.

Moses death at 1406 B.C.

Joshua dies at 1375 B.C.

God ruled the Israelites through Judges.

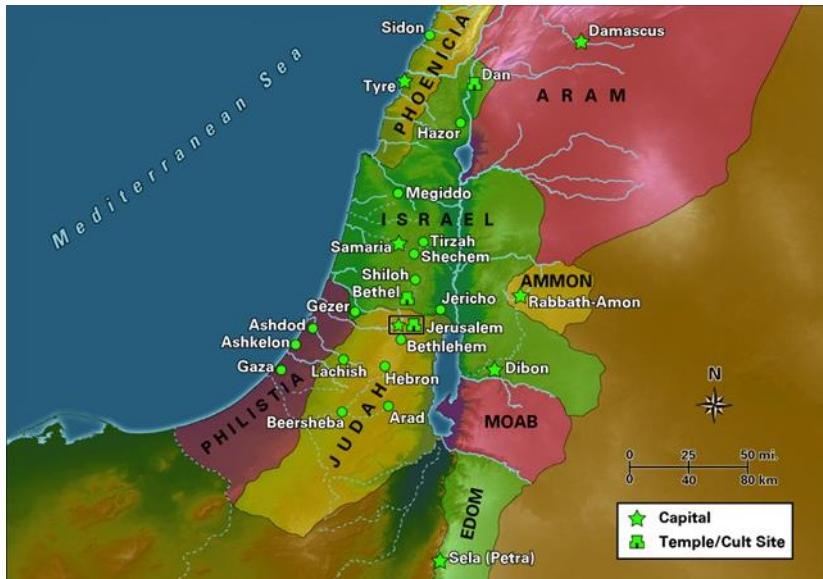


King Saul, David and Solomon ruled over the unified Israel from 1020 to 922 BC.

Saul becomes King 1043 B.C.

David Becomes king 1003 B.C.

Solomon becomes king 970 B.C



King David reigned over a large territory and his son Solomon over an even larger one.

After the death of King Solomon, the kingdom was divided in two.

The southern kingdom consisted only of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and thus became the kingdom of Judah, with Jerusalem as its capital.

The northern kingdom consisted of the remaining tribes and was called Israel. After the establishment of two short-lived capitals at Shechem and Tirzah, King Omri established his capital at Samaria, where it would remain for the duration of the northern kingdom's existence.

The Two Kingdoms

Kingdom of Israel

Kingdom of Judah



The kingdom of Israel was larger in size and controlled more significant trade routes than did Judah. Territorial boundaries

expanded and contracted over time as Israel and Judah engaged in conflict with one another and their neighbors.

Evidence from outside the Bible suggests that Israel was more powerful than Judah. However, Israel was the more short-lived kingdom of the two.

Israel was destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 B.C., whereas Judah, though severely damaged, narrowly escaped the dreadful onslaught of the Assyrian war machine.

But Judah's escape from imperial domination would be brief. Jerusalem eventually fell to the Babylonian Empire and was destroyed in 605, 587 and finally 586 B.C.

Kings of Israel

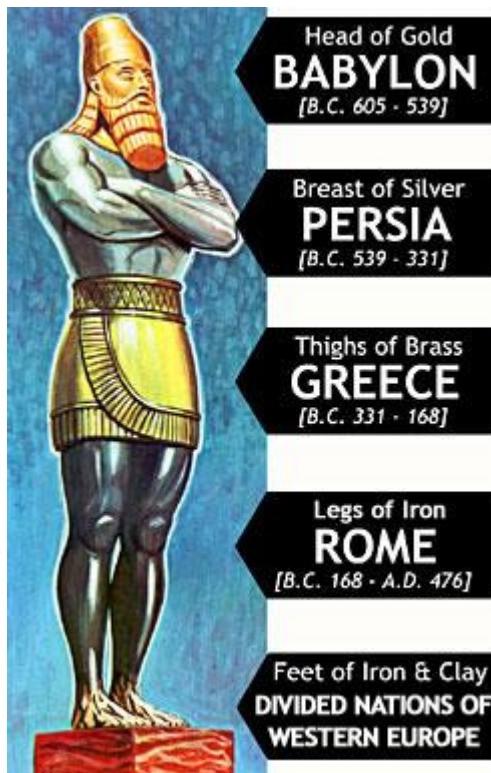
King	Years
Jeroboam I	927–906
Nadab	905–904
Baasha	903–882
Elah	881–880
Zimri	880
Omri	879–869

King	Years
Ahab	868–854
Ahaziah	853–852
Jehoram (Joram)	851–840
Jehu	839–822
Jehoahaz	821–805
Jehoash (Joash)	804–789
Jeroboam II	788–748
Zechariah	747
Shallum	747
Menahem	746–737
Pekahiah	736–735
Pekah	734–731
Hoshea	730–722

Kings of Judah

King	Years
Rehoboam	926–910
Abijah	909–907
Asa	906–878
Jehoshaphat	877–853
Jehoram (Joram)	852–841
Ahaziah (Jehoahaz I)	840
Athaliah	839–833
Joash (Jehoash)	832–803
Amaziah	802–786
Uzziah (Azariah)	785–760
Jotham	759–744
Ahaz	743–728
Hezekiah	727–699
Manasseh	698–644
Amon	643–642
Josiah	641–610
Jehoahaz II (Shallum)	609

King	Years
Jehoiakim (Eliakim)	608–598
Jehoiachin (Jeconiah)	598
Zedekiah (Mattaniah)	598–586



After the exile into Babylon, the nation of Israel returns to their own land.

Temple completed 515 BC

Alexander the Great conquered the whole world when the Persians were ruling over the major portions.

The death of Alexander the Great of Greece in 323 BC led to the breakup of the Greek empire as three of his generals fought for supremacy and divided the Middle East among themselves.

Ptolemy secured control of Egypt and the Land of Israel. Seleucids grabbed Syria and Asia Minor, and Antigonus took Greece.

The Land of Israel was thus sandwiched between two of the rivals and, for the next 125 years, Seleucids and Ptolemies battled for this prize. The Seleucids finally won in 198 B.C. when Antiochus III defeated the Egyptians and incorporated Judea into his empire. Initially, he continued to allow the Jews autonomy, but after a stinging defeat at the hands of the Romans he began a program of Hellenization that threatened to force the Jews to abandon their monotheism for the Greeks' paganism.

Antiochus backed down in the face of Jewish opposition to his effort to introduce idols in their temples, but his son, Antiochus IV, who inherited the throne in 176 B.C. resumed his father's

original policy without excepting the Jews. A brief Jewish rebellion only hardened his views and led him to outlaw central tenets of Judaism such as the Sabbath and circumcision and defile the holy Temple by erecting an altar to the god Zeus, allowing the sacrifice of pigs, and opening the shrine to non-Jews.

When a Greek official tried to force a priest named Mattathias to make a sacrifice to a pagan god, the Jew murdered the man. Predictably, Antiochus began retaliations, but in 167 BCE the Jews rose up behind Mattathias and his five sons and fought for their liberation.

The family of Mattathias became known as the Maccabees, from the Hebrew word for "hammer," because they were said to strike hammer blows against their enemies.

Antiochus underestimated the will and strength of his Jewish adversaries and sent a small force to put down the rebellion. When that was annihilated, he led a more powerful army into battle only to be defeated. In 164 BCE, Jerusalem was recaptured by the Maccabees and the Temple purified, an event that gave birth to the holiday of Chanukah.

It took more than two decades of fighting before the Maccabees forced the Seleucids to retreat from the Land of Israel.

By this time Antiochus had died and his successor agreed to the Jews' demand for independence.

In the year **142 BCE**, after more than 500 years of subjugation, the Jews were again masters of their own.

When the Romans replaced the Seleucids as the great power in the region, they granted the Hasmonean king, Hyrcanus II, limited authority under the Roman governor of Damascus. The Jews were hostile to the new regime, and the following years witnessed frequent insurrections. A last attempt to restore the former glory of the Hasmonean dynasty was made by Mattathias Antigonus, whose defeat and death brought Hasmonean rule to an end (40 BCE), and the Land became a province of the Roman Empire.

In 37 BCE, Herod, a son-in-law of Hyrcanus II, was appointed King of Judea by the Romans.

Granted almost unlimited autonomy in the country's internal affairs, he became one of the most powerful monarchs in the eastern part of the Roman Empire.

A great admirer of Greco-Roman culture, Herod launched a massive construction program, which included the cities of Caesarea and Sebaste and the fortresses at Herodium and Masada.

He also remodeled the Temple into one of the most magnificent buildings of its time. But despite his many achievements, Herod failed to win the trust and support of his Jewish subjects.

Ten years after Herod's death (4 BCE), Judea came under direct Roman administration. Growing anger against increased Roman suppression of Jewish life resulted in sporadic violence which escalated into a full-scale revolt in 66 CE.

Superior Roman forces led by Titus were finally victorious, razing Jerusalem to the ground (70 CE) and defeating the last Jewish outpost at Masada (73 CE).

The total destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple was catastrophic for the Jewish people. According to the contemporary historian Josephus Flavius, hundreds of thousands of Jews perished in the siege of Jerusalem and elsewhere in the country, and many thousands more were sold into slavery.

